

Vocabulary Worksheets *A Christmas Carol*

Stave 2 The First of the Three Spirits

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. The curtains of his bed were drawn aside; and Scrooge, starting up into a half-recumbent attitude, found himself face to face with the unearthly visitor who drew them: as close to it as I am now to you, and I am standing in the spirit at your elbow.  

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2. It would have been in vain for Scrooge to plead that the weather and the hour were not adapted to pedestrian purposes; that bed was warm, and the thermometer a long way below freezing; that he was clad but lightly in his slippers, dressing gown, and nightcap; and that he had a cold upon him at the time.  

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3. He rose: but finding that the Spirit made towards the window, clasped its robe in supplication. "I am a mortal," Scrooge remonstrated, "and liable to fall."  

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5. It opened before them, and disclosed a long, bare, melancholy room, made barer still by lines of plain deal forms and desks.  

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6. A terrible voice in the hall cried, "Bring down Master Scrooge's box, there!" and in the hall appeared the schoolmaster himself, who glared on Master Scrooge with a ferocious condescension, and threw him into a dreadful state of mind by shaking hands with him.  

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7. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his *capacious* waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice: "Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!"

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8. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shoes to his organ of *benevolence*; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice: "Yo ho, there! Ebenezer! Dick!"

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9. "All your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the chance of its *sordid* reproach. . . . "

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10. In the struggle, if that can be called a struggle in which the Ghost with no visible resistance on its own part was undisturbed by any effort of its *adversary*, Scrooge observed that its light was burning high and bright . . .

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Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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| _____ 1. recumbent     | A. reclining; lying down                   |
| _____ 2. pedestrian    | B. filthy; vile                            |
| _____ 3. supplication  | C. sadness; depression ; gloom             |
| _____ 4. remonstrated  | D. asking for humbly or earnestly; praying |
| _____ 5. melancholy    | E. opponent; enemy                         |
| _____ 6. condescension | F. going on foot; walking                  |
| _____ 7. capacious     | G. generosity; kindness                    |
| _____ 8. benevolence   | H. being courteous with a superior air     |
| _____ 9. sordid        | I. spacious; large                         |
| _____ 10. adversary    | J. protested                               |